

Holy Cross Ranger District
24747 US Hwy 24
P.O. Box 190
Minturn, CO 81645
(970) 827- 5715 - Voice
(970) 827-9343 - Fax



United States Department of Agriculture



HIKING

NORTH TRAIL #1896 - BUFFEHR CREEK TO RED SANDSTONE

Length: 3.75 miles (one way)

Difficulty: Moderate

Beginning Elevation: 8,127 ft.

Elevation Gain: +977 ft. - 850 ft. = + 127 ft.

Trail Use: High

Open To: Hiking, Biking, Horseback

Ending Elevation: 8,254 ft.

USGS Map(s): Vail West

Access from Vail: Travel west on I-70 to Exit 173 for West Vail. Turn right and proceed east on the North Frontage Road for 0.5 miles to Buffehr Creek Road. Turn left and continue to the bridge. There is limited parking at 2 pull-offs just beyond the bridge.

Trail Highlights: From the Buffehr Creek Bridge, proceed about 1/4 mile on the Buffehr Creek Trail before turning right at the first junction (the trail to the left is the Garmisch Trail). Continue north approximately another 1/2 mile, ascending a series of switchbacks, to the North Trail junction and take a right. This section is now both the Buffehr Creek Trail and North Trail. After passing a beaver pond on the right and passing a pile of avalanche debris, cross Buffehr Creek. From Buffehr Creek, climb steeply for approximately one mile on an open hillside. At the top of the switchbacks, take the right fork onto the North Trail (this is where the Buffehr Creek Trail departs the North Trail and heads left/north). From here the trail enters an aspen stand, and openings along the way provide scenic views to the south and east. Take note of the old lean-to after leaving the back of the drainage. Begin the descent to Red Sandstone via a series of switchbacks where the stand of aspen begins to thin. The first couple switchbacks offer outstanding views of the Gore Range and the Red Sandstone drainage.

Important Information: The North Trail is closed from April 15 to June 15 for elk calving season and for soil protection and erosion controls from seasonal runoff.

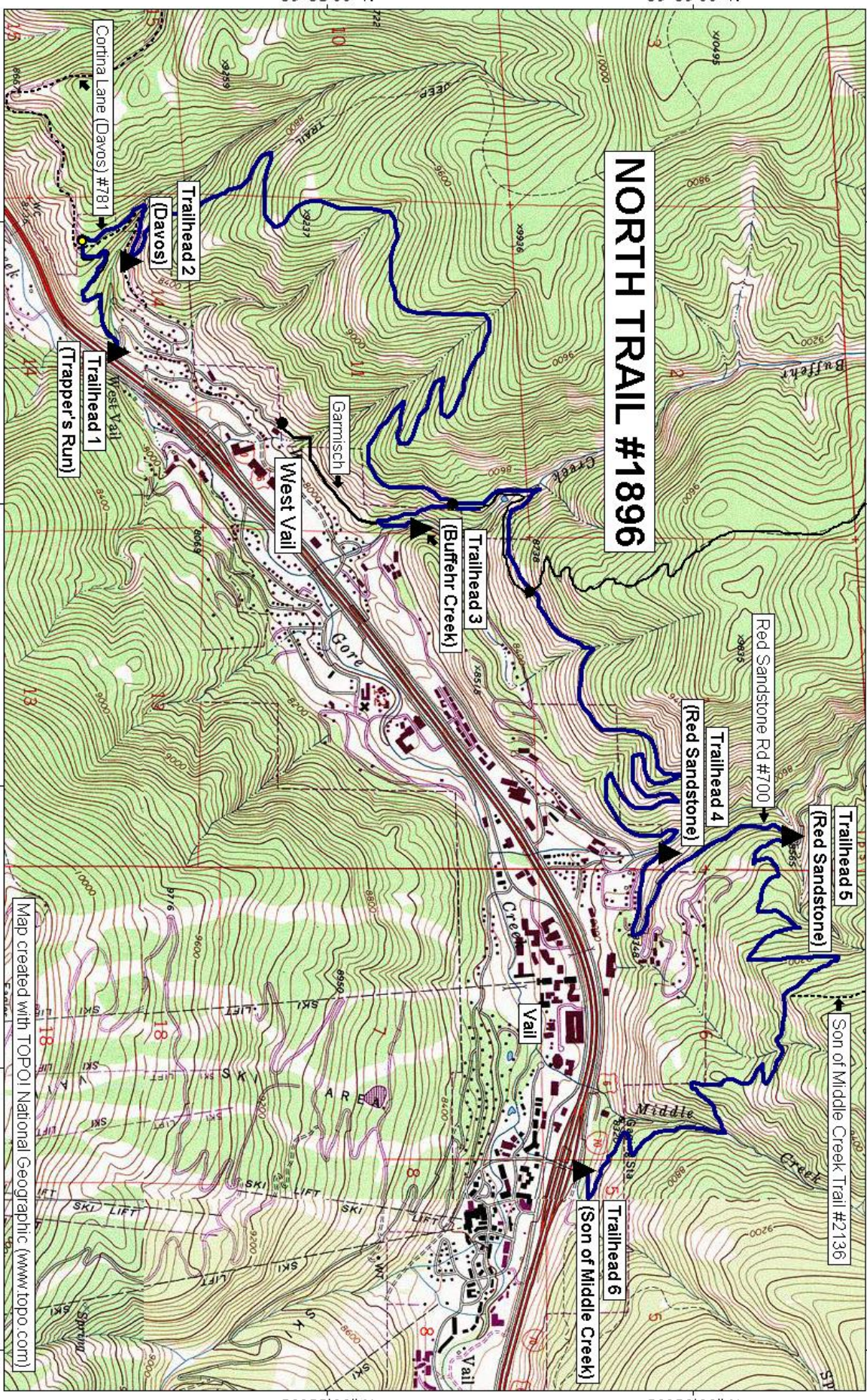
PACK IT IN - PACK IT OUT!! LEAVE NO TRACE!!

This map is intended for use as a general guide only, not for actual land navigation. The White River National Forest strongly suggests purchasing a topographic map and compass prior to your hiking trip.

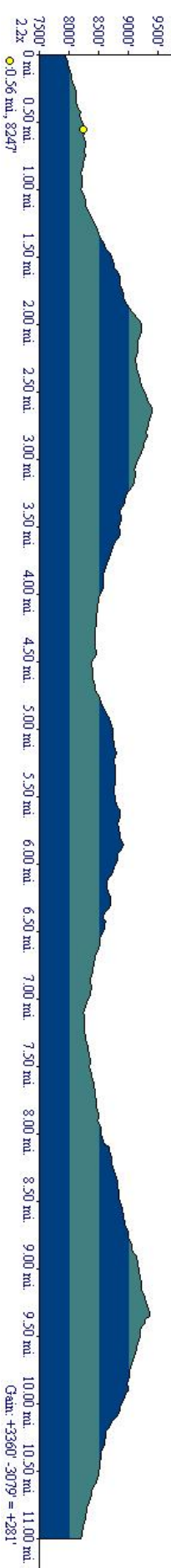
106°26'00" W 106°25'00" W 106°24'00" W 106°23'00" W WGS84 106°22'00" W

HOLY CROSS RANGER DISTRICT WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST

NORTH TRAIL #1896



Map created with TOPOI® ©2002 National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com/topo)



Gain: +3360' -3079' = +281'